

# THE BOSTON INFORMER

No. 70

The truly highbrow rag for people who can read

April 1, 2005

## Preview of Boston in 2025

■ Because of the **real estate tax rebellion of 2010** and police union demands for 200 hours per week of overtime pay, the City of Boston no longer funds traditional city services. Trash pickup, street construction, parks maintenance, etc. are now provided by a privately funded Friends of the City group, whose member identities are a closely guarded secret. The development-funded BRA has merged into the Friends group.

■ Executive Office of Transportation head Matt Amorello Jr. announced the state has **finally finished paying for the Central Artery Project** and has repaired 250 deficient bridges. However, before any new roads, bridges or bike paths can be built, Central Artery tunnels, bridges and viaducts must undergo \$500 million in maintenance and repairs.

■ **Former U.S. President Mitt Romney** was appointed president of Harvard University. In his opening remarks, Romney said, "After presiding over the bankrupt Federal government, I look forward to a job with power and money."

■ **Amtrak has been saved again** from bankruptcy by switching to magnetic levitation (MAGLEV) technology. Since MAGLEV trains ride on air, Amtrak is eligible for the massive federal subsidies given to airlines.

■ The financially ailing **MBTA can no longer afford to run scheduled bus service** and has substituted "bus taxi service." The destination is decided by vote of the majority of the riders.

■ **Global warming**, rejected as a wacko Communist scare tactic for years, has indeed caused ocean levels to rise, flooding all the filled land in Boston and giving the City the same shoreline as in 1630. **Castle Island, shown, is once again an island**, and swimmers at the L Street Bathhouse have made loops around Fort Independence part of their training.

► In a related event, Congressional hearings on Central Artery/Tunnel leaks have been discontinued because the flooding has eliminated all the leaks—they are now completely under water. Off the hot seat at last, **MassPike has hired Bechtel to design and build an elevated highway** across Boston to connect I-93 on the north and south. Bechtel has guaranteed the elevated highway will not leak.

► **The MBTA is scrambling to find ferry operators** and equipment to run substitute bus and subway service and is thrilled to be able to use tickets it put away after cancelling most of its

ferry services years ago during a financial crunch. Logan Airport's newest runway, 14/32, is now serving only pontoon planes since it and all of Logan Airport is underwater.

► With Boston's new warm climate and the new tropical climate of Florida, a huge migration from Florida to Boston has put further pressure on housing prices in Boston. Part of the solution has been **houseboat parks** in new downtown lagoons and in the expanded Inner Harbor.

### Global Warming 2025: Castle Island



## City Beefs up Homeland Security at Long Wharf



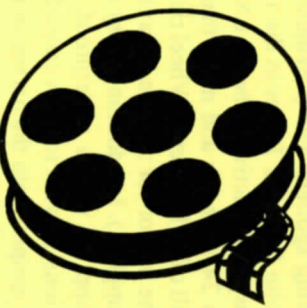
Responding to criticism the City is not doing enough to protect the downtown from the dangers of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker explosion in the Inner Harbor, the **Boston Redevelopment Authority has bought the old Whalom Park Ferris Wheel and erected it on Long Wharf to serve as a security outpost.** Using spotters who previously watched for panes of glass falling from the John Hancock Tower in the 1970s, the City will keep an eagle eye out for suspicious activity aboard LNG tankers.

Recognizing that security is a 24-hour job and more than professional spotters can do alone, the City will offer free Ferris Wheel rides to residents and visitors who agree to scan the harbor for strange behavior (three-hour minimum required, binoculars supplied). In addition, every resident living close to the harbor has been supplied with a waterproof, fireproof and mildew-proof booklet of instructions on what to do in case of emergency or terrorist attack. Advice includes jumping into the harbor in case of fire.



# Movies Not to Miss!

**Aliens of the Deep** — a horror movie about strange shadowy figures—Bechtel engineers looking for leaks—seen from time to time in the depths of the Central Artery tunnels



**Are We There Yet** — the sad stories and plaintive cries of commuters trapped on the MBTA in rush hour

**House of the Flying Daggers** — a documentary about a typical day in the State House

**Nobody Knows** — a mystery study about Attorney General Reilly's investigation into responsibility for mismanagement and shoddy work on the Big Dig

**Watermarks** — the frightening story of rising sea level year by year as global warming progresses

**Cursed** — a biographical epic about the fate of all New England Democratic candidates for U.S. President since John F. Kennedy

**Imaginary Heroes** — a biographical study of recent Massachusetts Turnpike chairmen

**The Aviator** — the study of a future heroic traveller who waits in line at the check-in desk, security check and boarding for the 800-seat Airbus A380 jumbo jet

**Hide and Seek** — another chapter in the never-ending search for Whitey Bulger

**1** **Dorchester Avenue Boulevard** — Mayor Menino's initiative to restore Dorchester Avenue, a once-grand boulevard, is moving along quickly. The Mayor's first task was to find someone—anyone—who could recall Dot Ave. when it even remotely resembled a grand boulevard. Undeterred by lack of response, the City has formed an advisory group co-chaired by Dunkin' Donuts and Ellis the Rim Man to help guide the boulevard planning.



Dorchester Ave., grand boulevard again

**2** **Barry Locke** and **Matt Amorello** may share νοτηνιν μορε τηαν βοτη ηαπινγωορκεδιντρανοπορτατιον.Ψετ τηει βοτη λοοκ λικε βοζοο, Αμορελλο στονεωαλλινγ αβουτ λεακσ ανδ λοχκε τακινγχαση. **Attorney General Reilly** may be the one who χαν γετ τηε τρυτη βειηινδ τηε σχρεω-υτ, βυτ ιν α ραχε αγαινοστ ποστερ βοιη **Gov. Romney** and **Ralph Martin**, Ρειλλιη νεεδσ το σμιλε μορε.

**3** **Red Sox Relocate to Pawtucket** — With the success of recent concerts at Fenway Park and overwhelming positive response to plans for the Rolling Stones, Johnny Cash impersonators and Wayne Newton, Red Sox owners have decided to play all home games at McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket, home of its Triple A team. The move will allow Sox owners to grant permission for tractor pulls, World Wide Wrestling and skeet shooting competitions at Fenway Park.

**4** **Christo in Boston** — Following his success in New York, Christo has been hired by MassPike to wrap the inside of the Big Dig tunnels with colorful waterproof material. Unlike most Christo art installations, the tunnel wrap will not be temporary. The wrap is expected to be in place for the lifetime of most people, or until culpability for the tunnel leaks is determined, money secured and the repairs completed.

**Commonwealth Roadway Signs** — MassPike chair Matt Amorello and the Central Artery/Tunnel team recently read an "End Construction" sign for paving work and immediately hired a consultant to search for anti-highway dissenters.



## Headlines You'll Never Read

- ✗ City of Boston renovates City Hall Plaza
- ✗ Independent engineer Steve Kaiser's 'History of Transit Policies and Commitments' praised by state development head Doug Foy; Fred Salvucci to use in class
- ✗ So. Boston Convention Center converted to 10,000 affordable housing units due to low convention bookings
- ✗ Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy donates \$50 million endowment to Boston to help all city parks
- ✗ Menino appoints Shirley Kressel to BRA Board
- ✗ Massport cancels Runway 14/32 saying it has forgotten the rationale for it
- ✗ Bechtel refunds its \$2 billion Big Dig fee
- ✗ Gov. Romney declares MBTA Urban Ring project top priority and commits state funds

## 'Spectacular Event' Planned for Greenway

Suggestions are pouring in after Mayor Menino called for ideas for a creative "spectacular event" to help dedicate the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway and mark the completion of the Central Artery/Tunnel project. Menino's spokesperson gave the MisInformer a sneak preview of the ideas received to-date. He said all entries would be seriously considered, except if your last name is Hennigan or you had an accident involving a pothole.



- Suggestions include:
- ▲ Elephant rides across the Zakim Bridge
  - Rolling Stones concert
  - Sec. of Transportation Mineta signing pieces of tunnel ceiling
  - Skateboard demonstration by Charles River Skatepark supporters
  - ◀ "World's Fair" with carnival rides and greasy food
  - Day of Kennedy-family remembrances, including marathon reading from Sen. Ted Kennedy's addresses to Congress
  - Flea market sale of Central Artery leaky slurry wall panels

## MBTA Luxury Liners

For its part of the Governor's \$31 billion transportation makeover, the MBTA is gearing to serve the niche market of **luxury commuter travel** with some added features for its Silver Line and Greenbush services. New trains will have higher ticket prices and swanky overnight accommodations for those who long for the cancelled Night Owl Service.





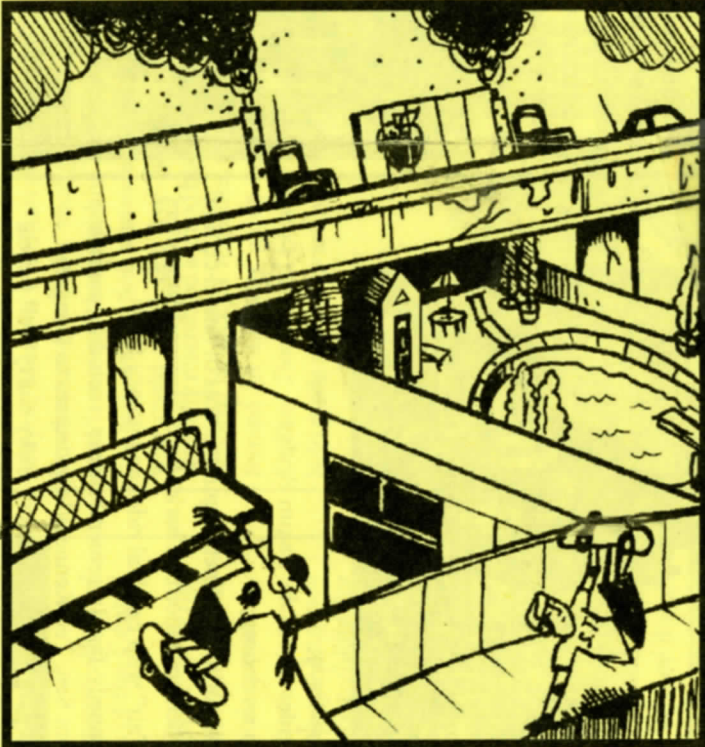
## Welcome to The Boston MisInformer,

the annual April Fool's issue of The Boston Informer, an otherwise "serious" newsletter covering development, construction and transportation downtown.

The Boston Informer is published by ATC Information, Inc., six times yearly in Boston, Massachusetts. President: Anthony Casendino; vice-presidents, Anne McKinnon, Chris Fincham.

The Boston Informer is available by mail only. \$25.00 per year (cheap!). Questions? Telephone (617) 723-7030, fax (617) 437-1886 or e-mail: Boston\_Informer@cs.com. Web: www.bostoninformer.com.

*Another luxury condo project in an unlikely location...*



Two luxury units still available at  
Skatepark Underbridge Place

Mis

**THE BOSTON INFORMER**

A publication of ATC Information, Inc.

PO Box 51473 • Boston, MA 02205-1473

## You Were Asking

- Q. What is the MBTA going to do close its budget gap?**
- A.** With the slow economy hurting ridership and lower sales taxes impacting its funding, the MBTA is considering leasing billboard space along the Riverside Line, replacing system maps at stations with ads, seeking sponsors for PA announcements in stations and selling special automobile license plates with the slogan, "I'd be on the T if I had the time."
- Q. Boston's health and anti-obesity program, STEP, (which apparently stands for nothing) is working with the MBTA to fight obesity. What are they doing?**
- A.** The MBTA has agreed to eliminate two-thirds of the bus stops on 41 bus routes so that riders will have to walk farther to their destinations. The MBTA will be able to save time and possibly stay on schedule by stopping fewer times.
- Q. Is it true that because of the leaks and falling debris in the tunnels and falling ice on the Zakim Bridge only armored amphibious vehicles are allowed on I-93 downtown?**
- A.** Not yet. However, The Boston MisInformer has been denied access to dozens of boxes of technical memoranda and hundreds of thousands of e-mails (two-thirds of which are "Meet you for lunch at noon"), so we cannot guarantee driver safety.
- Q. It's been nine months since the BTD commissioner resigned. Why hasn't Mayor Menino appointed a new commissioner of Transportation?**
- A.** Because he has discovered the Department of Transportation has no influence on traffic and circulation.
- Q. A MassPike spokesman was quoted recently as saying, "We have to be aboveboard on everything and we can't have an appearance of a conflict." Is this a new policy statement for MassPike?**
- A.** Apparently.



7/1/05  
Susan Lewis, Library Director  
Boston Architectural Center

320 Newbury St.  
Boston MA 02115-2703

02115+2735